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NEWS RELEASES

For Immediate Release: November 12, 2004

M004-267

SASKATOON BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS STATEMENT

Whereas the Board of Police Commissioners is responsible for general direction and policy of the Saskatoon Police Service, the day-to-day management, including discipline, is the sole responsibility of the Chief of Police. This simple and undisputable command structure, as dictated by the provincial Police Act, is recognized and reported on page 69 of Justice Wright's report.

To this end, the Board cannot and will not, make specific comments on Chief Sabo's decision with respect to the discipline outlined in today's announcement. However, the Board of Police Commissioners reiterates that it is determined to move forward – and to ensure this never happens again.

Much work has already been done since this incident occurred some 14 years ago, including a new community policing model that strengthens connections with the citizens of Saskatoon and enhances relationships with all communities. This initiative is led by Police Chief Russ Sabo, who is dedicated to this model, and who has earned the respect of the Aboriginal community. We are confident that the Chief is committed to do what is right and according to the law, and that he shares the Board's resolute desire to make a difference. I

n this, the Board will continue to find new ways to work with the Aboriginal community to develop trust in our Police Service – one that serves the needs of everyone. As announced earlier, the Board has established a sub-committee whose mandate includes the review and timely implementation of Justice Wright's recommendations.

Character builds slowly, but it can be torn down with incredible swiftness. The Board is eager to meet with the Aboriginal community to work together in earning trust in our Police Service.

The Board also recognizes that our police officers are dedicated and hardworking, and do their best in serving the citizens of Saskatoon. Day in and day out, the members of our Police Service do their job, and they do it well during some of the most difficult circumstances imaginable.

They deserve, and have, our full support.

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